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Contact: Darren Rogers
Senior Director, Communications & Media Services
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(502) 636-4461 (office)
(502) 345-1030 (mobile)

ROMAN APPROVAL LOOKS FOR BREAKTHROUGH VICTORY IN SATURDAY'S GRADE III LOUISVILLE HANDICAP AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, May 18, 2016) – **Three Diamonds Farm's Roman Approval**, three times a bridesmaid in Grade III stakes company, will attempt to breakthrough with a victory as the 117-pound starting high weight in field of seven older horses that were entered for Saturday's 79th running of the \$100,000 Louisville Handicap (GIII) at Churchill Downs.

The Louisville Handicap, a 1 ½-mile marathon over the Matt Winn Turf Course, is one of two stakes events on the 11-race program that also includes a simulcast of Preakness Day action from Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course. Churchill Downs' first race is 12:45 p.m. (all times Eastern). The Lou 'Cap goes as Race 6 at approximately 3:16 p.m. and the 11th running of the \$65,000-added Opening Verse Overnight Stakes, a one-mile grass event for 3-year-olds and up, is the 11th and final race at approximately 5:52 p.m.

The 141st running of the \$1.5 million Preakness Stakes (GI), the Middle Jewel of the Triple Crown headlined by the Kentucky Derby one-two punch of unbeaten **Nyquist** and runner-up **Exaggerator**, goes as the 13th of 14 races at Pimlico at approximately 6:45 p.m. The race will be shown on television monitors throughout Churchill Downs, including the massive Big Board.

Roman Approval, a 5-year-old Kentucky-bred son of Roman Ruler, has banked \$347,185 for Three Diamonds Farm since he was claimed for \$25,000 at Saratoga on Aug. 20, 2014. During that span, he's posted a record of 4-6-2 in 17 starts, including a runner-up effort to **The Pizza Man** in the 2015 Stars and Stripes (GIII) at Arlington Park and seconds to **Chocolate Ride** this winter in the Col. E.R. Bradley (GIII) and Fair Grounds (GIII) handicaps at Fair Grounds.

Roman Approval, who boasts an overall record of 30-7-14-3—\$426,063, is conditioned by **Mike Maker**, who saddled **Dark Cove** to victory in the 2013 Louisville Handicap. He'll break from post 2 under jockey **Robby Albarado**, who has won the race a record-equaling four times: **Pisces** (2002), **Silverfoot** (2004-05) and **Lattice** (2008).

The Louisville Handicap field from the rail out (with jockeys and assigned weight): **Tiz Town** (Brian Hernandez Jr., 112 pounds); Roman Approval (Albarado, 117); **Bullards Alley** (Francisco Torres, 114); **Johns Kitten** (James Graham, 114); **Aldous Snow** (Joe Rocco Jr., 115); **Wireless Future** (Shaun Bridgmohan, 115); and **Dynamic Sky** (Channing Hill, 116).

Sam-Son Farm's 7-year-old gelding Aldous Snow (30-5-5-3—\$546,339) and **John C. Oxley's** 6-year-old Dynamic Sky (29-5-6-7—\$1,087,828) are Grade III winners. Aldous Snow won back-to-back runnings of the Singpiel (GIII) at Canada's Woodbine in 2014-15 for trainer **Malcolm Pierce**. Dynamic Sky, the lone millionaire in the field, seeks his first victory for trainer **Mark Casse** since defeating **Big Blue Kitten** in the 2014 Red Smith Handicap (GIII) at Aqueduct.

A wide-open renewal of the Opening Verse, which serves as a local steppingstone to the \$200,000 Wise Dan (GII) over 1 1/16 miles on grass on June 18, includes **Randy Bloch**, **Phil Milner**, **John Seiler** and **Amtietan LLC's Thatcher Street**, runner-up to **Heart to Heart** in last fall's River City Handicap (GIII) for trainer **Ian Wilkes**, and **Abdullah Saeed Almaddah's Green Mask**, who'll attempt to stretch out his turf-sprint form in his first start for trainer **Brad Cox**.

The Opening Verse field (with jockeys): Thatcher Street (Hernandez); Green Mask (Rocco); **Dimension (GB)** (Declan Cannon); **Slip By** (Jesus Castanon); **Hammers Terror** (Albarado); **Aztec Brave (FR)** (Gary Stevens); **Kulik Lodge** (Graham); **Dac** (Sophie Doyle); **R. Great Adventure** (Chris Landeros); **Potomac River** (Juan Vargas); **Pleuven (FR)** (Hill); and **One Touch** (Torres). **Behesht (FR)** (Miguel Mena) is on the also-eligible list. All starters will carry 122 pounds.

Churchill Downs admission gates will open Saturday at 11:30 a.m. General Admission is \$5, reserved seating is \$10 and reserved dining packages are \$47. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at ChurchillDowns.com/Tickets. The first 5,000 fans through the gates will receive a free Kentucky Derby 142 commemorative poster.

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